

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 have been amended by the present Amendment. Amended claims 1, 7, 8 and 10 do not introduce any new subject matter.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 8 and 10 were objected to for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. In response, Applicants have amended claims 8 and 10 as suggested by Examiner. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102:

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejections of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,653,186 to Won et al. ("Won").

Applicants respectfully submit that Won does not disclose or suggest "a supporting layer comprising a single layer", as recited in amended claims 1 and 7. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Won. In addition, for at least the reason that claim 2 depends from claim 1, claim 2 is also not anticipated by the cited reference.

Claims 1 and 7 recite a single-layer supporting layer that does not include an etch stop layer. See, e.g., Fig. 2G; see also page 10, lines 1-6. In contrast, Won discloses a double-layer supporting layer (105) which includes an etch stop layer (108) in addition to a lower mold layer (106). See, e.g., Figs. 5 and 9.

Since Won does not disclose or suggest the limitations recited in independent claims 1 and 7, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 7 are not anticipated by Won. Claim 2 depends from claim 1 which, for the reasons stated hereinabove, is submitted not to be anticipated by the cited reference. For at least those very same reasons, claim 2 is also be submitted not to be anticipated by the cited reference.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1, 2 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and that claims 1, 2 and 7 are in condition for allowance.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103:

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejections of claims 3, 4, 5, 9, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Won and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,624,018 to Yu et al. ("Yu") and U.S. Patent No. 5,310,626 to Fernandes et al. ("Fernandes").

Reconsideration is also respectfully requested of the rejections of claims 6 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Won and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,399,438 to Saito et al. ("Saito").

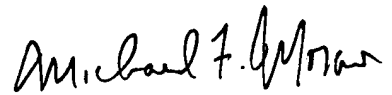
Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to independent claims 1 and 7 render claims 1 and 7 patentable over the cited references. The combination of cited references does not disclose or suggest the embodiments recited in claims 1 and 7. Further, it would not have been obvious to modify Won in view of Yu and Fernandes or in view of Saito to result in the claimed single layer supporting layer. Indeed, Won

teaches away such a modification. For at least the reason that claims 3-6 depend from claim 1 and claims 8-11 depend from claim 7, claims 3-6 and 8-11 are also submitted to be patentably distinct over the cited references.

Therefore, based on the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections of claims 3-6 and 8-11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and that claims 3-6 and 8-11 are in condition for allowance.

An early and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner has any further questions or comments, the Examiner may telephone Applicants' Attorney to reach a prompt disposition of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael F. Morano", is written over a horizontal line.

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